

Amendments to and Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) An ergonomic handle comprising:
a main body portion; and
an appendage support member projecting laterally from the main body portion, the appendage support member comprising a top surface that provides a concave recess wherein a principle axis of the concave recess passing through a center of curvature and a vertex of the concave recess is substantially perpendicular to and offset from a centerline of the main body portion, and the appendage support member having a substantially continuous convex shaped surface over a majority of the bottom surface to provide an ergonomic support surface for an appendage of a user.
2. (Withdrawn) The handle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the appendage support member is ergonomically shaped to accommodate a placement of both a distal portion of a first appendage of a hand of the user adjacent the concave recess of the top surface of the appendage support member and a distal portion of a second appendage of the hand of the user adjacent the substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage support member, wherein upon a grasping of the main body portion by the user, the distal portions of the user's first and second appendages are supported by the appendage support member and are fully offset from the centerline of the main body portion.
3. (Withdrawn) The handle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the concave recess is ergonomically shaped to accommodate the first appendage, and wherein the first appendage is a thumb on the hand of the user.
4. (Withdrawn) The handle as claimed in claim 3, wherein the substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage

support member is ergonomically shaped to accommodate the second appendage, and wherein the second appendage is an index finger on the hand of the user.

5. (Withdrawn) The handle as claimed in claim 3 wherein the concave recess comprises a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

6. (Withdrawn) The handle as claimed in claim 5 wherein the concave recess is dimensioned to accommodate the thumb of a user.

7. (Withdrawn) The handle as claimed in claim 6 wherein the main body portion comprises a first thin portion near a proximal end of said handle, a second thin portion near a distal end of said handle, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and further wherein the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.

8. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:

a blade member having a cutting edge; and

a handle comprising:

a main body portion; and

an appendage support member projecting laterally from the main body portion, the appendage support member comprising a top surface that provides a concave recess wherein a principle axis of the concave recess passing through a center of curvature and a vertex of the concave recess is substantially perpendicular to and offset from a longitudinal centerline of the main body portion, and the appendage support member having a substantially continuous convex shaped surface over a majority of the bottom surface to provide an ergonomic support surface for an appendage of a user.

9. (Previously presented) The knife as claimed in claim 8, wherein the appendage support member is ergonomically shaped to accommodate a placement of both a distal portion of a first appendage of a hand of the user adjacent the concave recess of the top surface of the appendage support member and a distal portion of a second appendage of the hand of the user adjacent the substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage support member, wherein upon a grasping of the main body portion by the user, the distal portions of the user's first and second appendages are supported by the appendage support member and are fully offset from the centerline of the main body portion.

10. (Previously presented) The knife as claimed in claim 9, wherein the concave recess is ergonomically shaped to accommodate the first appendage, and wherein the first appendage is a thumb on the hand of the user.

11. (Previously presented) The knife as claimed in claim 10, wherein the substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage support member is ergonomically shaped to accommodate the second appendage, and wherein the second appendage is an index finger on the hand of the user.

12. (Previously presented) The knife as claimed in claim 10 wherein the concave recess comprises a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

13. (Previously presented) The knife as claimed in claim 12 wherein the concave recess is dimensioned to accommodate the thumb of an average adult.

14. (Previously presented) The knife as claimed in claim 13 wherein the main body portion comprises a first thin portion near a proximal end of said handle, a second thin portion near a distal end of said handle, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and

second thin portions, and further wherein the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.

15. (Withdrawn) A hand implement comprising:

an tool member for performing the particular function of the implement; and
a handle comprising:

a main body portion; and

an appendage support member projecting laterally from the main body portion, the appendage support member comprising a top surface that provides a concave recess wherein a principle axis of the concave recess passing through a center of curvature and a vertex of the concave recess is substantially perpendicular to and offset from a centerline of the main body portion, and the appendage support member having a substantially continuous convex shaped surface over a majority of the bottom surface to provide an ergonomic support surface for an appendage of a user.

16. (Withdrawn) The hand implement as claimed in claim 15, wherein the appendage support member is ergonomically shaped to accommodate a placement of both a distal portion of a first appendage of a hand of the user adjacent the concave recess of the top surface of the appendage support member and a distal portion of a second appendage of the hand of the user adjacent the substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage support member, wherein upon a grasping of the main body portion by the user, the distal portions of the user's first and second appendages are supported by the appendage support member and are fully offset from the centerline of the main body portion.

17. (Withdrawn) The hand implement as claimed in claim 16, wherein the concave recess is ergonomically shaped to accommodate the first appendage, and wherein the first appendage is a thumb on the hand of the user.

18. (Withdrawn) The hand implement as claimed in claim 17, wherein the substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage support member is ergonomically shaped to accommodate the second appendage, and wherein the second appendage is an index finger on the hand of the user.

19. (Withdrawn) The hand implement as claimed in claim 17 wherein the concave cavity comprises a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

20. (Withdrawn) The hand implement as claimed in claim 19 wherein the concave cavity is dimensioned to accommodate the thumb of a user.

21. (Withdrawn) The hand implement as claimed in claim 20 wherein the main body portion comprises a first thin portion near a proximal end of said handle, a second thin portion near a distal end of said handle, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and further wherein the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.